

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
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C O N F I D E N T I A L JAKARTA 1574

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR IN ID
SUBJ: VISIT OF ALI MURTOPO AND DELEGATION TO INDIA FEBRUARY 9-14

REF: JAKARTA 1525

1. THE EMBASSY HAS LEARNED FROM UNOFFICIAL BUT FAIRLY RELIABLE SOURCES THAT LT GEN ALI MURTOPO WILL BE HEADING A DELEGATION VISITING INDIA FEBRUARY 9-14. DELEGATION IS SAID TO CONSIST OF ONE REPRESENTATIVE EACH FROM INDONESIAN ORGANIZATIONS FOR LABOR, YOUTH, FISHERMEN, WOMEN AND FARMERS, AND THREE OF FOUR PERSONS FROM HIS OWN ENTOURAGE.

2. ACCORDING OUR SOURCES, MURTOPO HAS APPOINTMENTS WITH THE PRIME MINISTER AND PRESIDENT. THESE HAVE REPORTEDLY BEEN CONFIRMED BY THE INDIAN EMBASSY IN JAKARTA WHICH SEES THESE HIGH RANKING APPOINTMENTS AS A TRIBUTE TO MURTOPO'S POWERFUL POSITION IN THE INDONESIAN ESTABLISHMENT.

3. PURPOSE OF VISIT SUPPOSEDLY BECAUSE OF MUTUAL DESIRE ON PART OF INDIA AND INDONESIA TO IMPROVE AND BUILD UPON GOOD RELATIONS WHICH GO BACK TO THE IMMEDIATE PRE-INDONESIAN INDEPENDENCE DAYS WHEN NEHRU WAS MAKING FRIENDLY AND HELPFUL NOISES TOWARD INDONESIA.

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HOWEVER, WE HEAR ALSO THAT MURTOPO IS TO DISCUSS (A)

POLICIES OF AND FOR NON-ALIGNED NATIONS; (YML SALE OF
INDONESIAN OIL TO INDIA; AND (C) NUCLEAR POWER
(THE LATTER PERHAPS BECAUSE OF INDONESIA'S LONG RANGE
INTEREST IN DEVELOPING NUCLEAR POWER). IT ALSO
POSSIBLE MURTOPO MAY SEEK INDIAN GOVERNMENT, UNDER
STANDING FOR EVENTUAL INTEGRATION OF PORTUGUESE TIMOR
INTO INDONESIA. REPS OF INDONESIAN ORGANIZATIONS
ACCOMPANYING MURTOPO ARE SUPPOSED TO CONTACT THEIR
OPPOSITE NUMBERS IN INDIA FOR PURPOSE OF BUILDING AND
INTENSIFYING RELATIONS.

4. MURTOPO IS PRESIDENTIAL INTIMATE AND ONE OF
SEVERAL DOZEN KEY FIGURES IN ESTABLISHMENT. HE
ATTENDED RECENT OPEC CONFERENCE IN ALGIERS AS CHIEF
ADVISER TO THE INDONESIAN DELEGATION. A CONTROVERSIAL
FIGURE, HE IS CHARGED WITH DELICATE TASKS SUCH AS
TIMOR QUESTION, ELECTIONS, ETC.

5. MURTOPO'S VISIT CONCEIVABLY HAS MANY IMPORTANT
RAMIFICATIONS. WE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN ANY INFORMATION
YOU MAY PICK UP ABOUT IT. NEWSOM

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